

June Overview

INYO Backcountry Trail Crew

Agnes Vianzon

Our journey in the Los Padres came to an end. But not before finishing important work on the Sisquoc River Trail and Sweet Water Trails. We packed up camp and headed back up and out to our vehicles and were greeted by Joe Duran and Dave Weaver. Once refueled with the biggest burritos and best homemade cookies ever, we headed back to the San Luis Obispo Center to reset. Onward to the Inyo National Forest where we would spend the rest of our season. Our drive took us from the coast of California, across and south of the Sierra Nevada and up the east side on Highway 395. We stopped briefly to see Mt. Whitney, elevation 14,496 ft. We arrived to a windy Mammoth Lakes and set up camp at the Forest Service corrals and were met there by our sponsors Jarad Barkheim, Keith Dolly, and Michael Morse. Surrounded by 360-degree views of mountains, we settled in. We are continuing to challenge ourselves in hiking and trail work. The next few weeks brought us to many area trail heads including Convict Lake, Parker Lake, and McGee Creek. Our work included brushing, de-rocking the trail, rehab of old trails, constructing check steps and waterbars.

Weekend Adventures:

Russell Juncal graced us with his great presence and knowledge teaching us poetry and geology in no better a place than the Eastern Sierra. We visited the Earthquake Fault, Panum Crater, Obsidian Dome, and Mono Lake. We also took advantage of access to Bodie State Historic Park, Lundy Lake and Sherwin Lakes.

Curriculum/Evening Activities:

Evening entertainments in camp included planning our monthly holidays, reading Jonathan Livingston Seagull by Richard Bach and beginning The Last Season by Eric Blehm. We also have continued working on our crew mission statement. Corpsmember classes began this month with Colby Accacian teaching us about meditation and Amber Wessel led us in a knot-tying class. We also had a special guest instructor and Mammoth Lakes local, Steve Searles, the Bear Whisperer, who came to teach us all about local animals and the bears of course. We celebrated two birthdays this month, James Turk on June 1st and Charlie Coffman on June 7th. Our send-off before saying goodbye to our front country camp was in full force with a backcountry wedding. Only pictures can fully describe this event.

We Appreciate you:

Much thanks to our Los Padres National Forest sponsors Joe Duran and Dave Weaver. We had a fantastic start to our season there and could not have done it without all your support and help. Thanks to Frank Salituri for his help logistically and all the good folks at the San Luis Obispo Center for hosting us once again as we continue our backcountry season. Thanks to Russell Juncal for his amazing class,

positive energy, and continued enthusiasm for the program. Thank you to Steve Searles for taking time away from his bears to teach us about them.

Corpsmember Words of Wisdom:

June 20th 2011

Everyday is a challenge, however, what was hard yesterday isn't hard today. We continue to grow, continue to change, allowing the woods and bare necessities to shape and mold us. Dirty clothes don't matter, the food on our face we save for later and the messiest hair looks the best. The bond between us at least by the end can't be broken. We take life day by day, if you ask the time it's "NOW" if you ask where we are, the answer is "HERE." No need to fret tomorrow or yesterday, out here today matters and we take from today as much as possible to build a better today tomorrow. We are becoming experts within, and understanding more outward, none the less we have problems and struggles we overcome individually and together exchanging knowledge of years, experience, growth, and personality. Everyone brings a different spice to our cake and together we are baking the best dessert one could have or gain. A bond of trust and community is in the mix and opportunity is a knockin', judgments aren't known, brotherhood and sisterhood is what we acquire, take away technology and you lift a veil that covers the true meaning of life, take away unnecessary possessions and true happiness is what you gain, take away evil doers and compassion and love begins, take the first step down this untraveled path and learn what most don't, change the game you were put into and make it worth playing, achieving your goals and succeeding is only one part of the big picture, obtaining self-worth and confidence is another. The world is our playground that can easily be turned into a nightmare with the right distractions. Now is the time to fight for more, don't be discouraged and know the evil of "can't." Every day is a lesson in itself you no longer have to be the victim, become a survivor and shine your true colors and inner beauty. Life can be tough and the road to travel will always have its ups and downs, bumps, tourists, and cattle guards, but no matter what, it's worth the fight!

-Amber Nicole Wessel